[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): As far as railway traffic is concerned Rajasthan has been neglected badly since Independence. As compared to other States the railway facilities are very little. Delhi—Ahmedabad metre gauge line which connects the capitals of Rajasthan and Gujarat viz., Jaipur and Ahmedabad respectively and also connects other regions of Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat like Alwar, Bandikui, Jaipur, Phulera, Ajmer, Beawar, Marwar Jn. Abu Road, Palampur and Mehsana etc., has not so far been converted into a broad gauge line. If this line is converted into broad gauge line, there will be rapid economic, industrial and commercial development of Rajasthan and Gujarat and there will be direct link between these States and Delhi and Bombay.

It is therefore, requested that Delhi—Ahmedabad metre gauge line may immediately be converted into broad gauge line.

(v) Need to construct a railway overbridge in Saharsa.

SHRI SURYA NARYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is only one manned railway level crossing in Saharsa and the city lies on both sides of the crossing. The crossing remains closed for hours together and sometimes even for 5 to 6 hours in a day. As a result there is heavy traffic congestion and the people have to face a lot of difficulties. As this road is the main artery of the city and Government offices are located on both sides of the crossing, there is heavy traffic on this road which makes the problem more serious.

Therefore, I request the Government to construct an overbridge on the said railway level crossing and ease the difficulty of the people. Besides it would help in saving lot of petrol and diesel also.

(vi) Need to take immediate steps to check erosion caused by river Ganga in Buxar district of Bihar.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, from Chausa to Koilwar in Buxar district of Bihar, there is continuous erosion by river Ganga. Thousands of villages have already been submerged and many more are likely to be submerged in river Ganga. The Flood Control Department is not in a position to control the situation. Therefore, it is requested that effective steps be taken immediately to check erosion particularly between Chausa and Koilwar in Buxar district.

(vii) Need to send Central Survey Team to assess the damage caused due to recent heavy rains in Bombay.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Sir, there was unprecedented heavy rain on 7th and 8th June, 1991 in Mumbai (Bombay) resulting in water blocking on roads, important natural nullahs over-flowing to such an extent that forty-eight persons died, 250 buffaloes were drowned and more than 75,000 families suffered as their belongings were swept away in floods. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government have done anything to extend relief to the flood stricken people. Public Undertakings, like Telephones, Airport Authority, Electricity Supply, etc. have got their machinery and equipment damaged, the value of which runs into crores. It is, therefore, necessary for the Central Government to send a survey team to assess the damage and extend help to the city with a condition that the State Government should contribute matching grant. If this is not done, the unrest and sufferings in Mumbai would increase.

(viii) Need to take up anti-desertification programmes in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI (Hindupur): In 1971 the Central Irrigation Commission had declared Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh as drought prone area. From time to time scientists and technical personnel studying the area have been warning the Government repeatedly that if in the course of time the required action is not taken for implementing proper schemes the Ditsrict might become a Desert. Recently alarm was raised regarding further decrease in ground water level. I request the Government to take up anti-desertification programmes and advise State Government to take special steps to face the grave situation.